

# OLYMPIC COAST NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

## Meeting Minutes

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting  
January 27, 2006  
Downriggers Conference Center  
115 East Railroad Ave.  
Port Angeles, Washington

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary  
NOAA, National Marine Sanctuary Program  
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301  
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925  
FAX # 360-457-8496

Reviewed by SAC Secretary

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Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent

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Approved by SAC

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Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary  
January 27, 2006

**Members Present:**

Terrie Klinger, Research (Chair)  
Jim Woods, Makah Tribe  
Steve Joner, Makah Tribe  
Jay Burns, Quileute Tribe  
Tim Snowden, Hoh Tribe  
Scott Druckrey, U.S. Coast Guard  
Martha Hurd, Wash. DNR (Secy.)  
Rebecca Post, Wash. Dept. of Ecology (Alt.)  
Mary Lou Mills, Wash. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (Alt.)  
Kevin Ryan, U.S. Fish & Wildlife  
Steven Fradkin, Olympic National Park (Alt.)  
Janet Sears, NMFS  
Mike Doherty, Local Gov. Rep. (Clallam)  
Gene Woodwick, Education  
Ellen Matheny, Education (Alt.)  
Doug Fricke, Commercial Fishing (Alt.)  
Bob Morse, Citizen-at-Large  
Mike Lenox, Tourism (Alt.)

**Staff**

Carol Bernthal, Superintendent  
Andy Palmer, Coordinator  
George Galasso, Asst. Manager  
Ed Bowlby, Research Coordinator  
Mary Sue Brancato, Resource Protection  
Robert Steelquist, Education/Outreach  
David Kirner, Marine Technician  
Cheryl Sinclair, Recording Secretary

**Guests/Public Attendees:**

Josh Sagers, U.S. Coast Guard  
Russ Svec, Makah Tribe  
David Hudson, Hoh Tribe  
Jennifer Hagen, NW Indian Fisheries  
Joe Scordino, NMFS  
John Haupt, NMFS  
Lynn Wilson, Coastal Nearshore Project  
Heidi Peterson, OCNMS  
Beth Winslow, OCNMS Volunteer  
Margaret Owens, OCNMS, Volunteer  
Chris Jones

**Welcome**

Chair Terrie Klinger called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed Tim Snowden as the new representative for the Hoh Tribe.

**Agenda/Meeting Minutes**

There were no amendments or modifications to the proposed agenda. Bob Morse moved that the minutes of the November 18, 2005 meeting be adopted as presented. Motion was seconded and **passed**.

**Internal Affairs**

Terrie indicated new member applications are being reviewed at headquarters and will not be addressed until the March meeting. In addition, current officers will retain their positions until election of officers at the March meeting. Terrie advised the following issues for discussion have been tabled until the March meeting: (1) clarification of the council's role of advisory versus advocacy (Andy will research past actions, resolutions and advice of the council); (2) clarification of how the council is reaching consensus or voting; (3) timeliness of members bringing motions forward, how much lead time other members need for consideration. She also

indicated that the National Marine Fisheries Service draft EIS on revision of the acoustic harassment regulations for marine mammals is not due out any time soon, so the working group has not addressed those issues.

### **Charter**

Andy Palmer reported he has received headquarters staff level review comments, has incorporated those comments and is finalizing final transmission documents to headquarters for what is hoped to be a fairly quick signature process. Changes from headquarters are: (1) the order of the sections; (2) the program's strategic plan goals will be included under the national program section; (3) slight change in emergency meetings, adding reference "if possible" to have a 15-day notice; if not possible that can be waived; (4) language that alternates are able to serve on subcommittees; (5) add that no members of subcommittees, including members or alternates, can get travel compensation. Andy clarified that at a full meeting of the advisory council expenses can be claimed. The current charter is extended until March, and the new charter should be approved by then.

### **Annual Operating Plan**

Andy Palmer reviewed the annual operating plan. Because of a conflict with the Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting on November 17, the SAC meeting is tentatively scheduled November 3, 2006. Bob Morse suggested time be allowed in the AOP for discussion of management plan review. Rebecca Post moved the operating plan be adopted with the changes suggested by Bob Morse. Motion seconded and **passed**. Andy will make the requested changes in the AOP.

### **2006 Annual SAC Chair and Coordinators Meeting**

Terrie offered her opinion that the most important items on the agenda for OCNMS are on April 27, acoustics and fishing regulations in national marine sanctuaries, and requested guidance from the council for her response during discussions at that meeting. There will be discussion only at the annual meeting, no action taken. Discussion was held as to an additional person attending the annual meeting with Terrie.

### **Presentation by Joe Scordino, NOAA Fisheries Deputy Regional Administrator/Carol Bernthal:**

Joe Scordino reviewed the draft flowchart regarding fishing regulations under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and/or Magnuson-Stevens Act and how those laws intersect. He discussed the process of identifying issues, the scoping process and the time lines for bringing in various agencies for input and comment. He also discussed the nine national standards under the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the need to meet those standards. There was discussion on issues that have arisen in California and how those have been addressed under the NMSA and MSA. There were questions and comments from council members regarding those issues.

In response to a question from Bob Morse, Terrie gave background reasons for Mr. Scordino's presentation to the council and outlined some of the issues that have been addressed by other sanctuaries which OCNMS may have to address in the future. Carol further explained that this information is being distributed to each of the SACs, who have been asked to comment. Terrie

reiterated that the presentation was not because of any planned action in OCNMS but because the council had been invited to comment. Carol discussed some of the fundamental differences between the MSA and NMSA and indicated that the council needs to consider (1) whether to comment, and (2) the nature of any comment. She suggested a working group be established, to report to the SAC at the March meeting, since written comments are due April 30. Working group members will be: **Jennifer Hagen; Doug Fricke; member from Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife; member from Olympic National Park; member from Washington Dept. of Ecology.**

#### **Public Comment**

No public comment offered.

#### **Oil Spill Contingency Plan**

Rebecca Post commented on oil spill contingency plan rules which will set, among other things, equipment requirements and time lines. Rebecca suggested there be a presentation at the March meeting regarding the rules.

#### **Presentation by Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Ed Bowlby, Mary Sue Brancato and Bob Steelquist, OCNMS (PowerPoint presentation available upon request):**

Carol gave an overview on budget preparation, defining priorities and work actually being done. She reviewed the seven goals in the NMSP Strategic Plan Goals and the different performance measures, and budget percentages for each category for FY 2006.

George Galasso, Assistant Manager OCNMS, presented information on administration and operations goals, objectives and performance measures. He briefly described the guidelines which are followed in administration and the way priorities are set through the AOP process and SAC charter. One of the main focuses of administration is to provide infrastructure. Also falling under administration's purview: maintain the RV Tatoosh and the Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat; maintain dive team; numerous duties for the SAC; oversee management plan review; support travel and training at the local, regional and national levels. George outlined the areas affected by the budget cuts, including delay of management plan review.

Ed Bowlby, Research Coordinator OCNMS, reported on the sanctuary's research programs including habitat characterization and mapping; deepwater coral and sponge habitats; kelp monitoring; marine mammal and seabird monitoring; nearshore monitoring; intertidal monitoring and sea otter studies and the goals, objectives and performance measures. Under habitat characterization and mapping, approximately 20% of the sanctuary sea floor has been mapped. In 2004, studies began on deepwater coral and sponge habitats, with additional studies planned to identify other areas in the sanctuary where these species occur. There have been annual aerial kelp monitoring surveys in conjunction with DNR since 1989, with some correlations to the sea otter habitat areas. On an annual basis researchers are out on NOAA ships to monitor marine mammals and seabirds, and in 2005 they worked in conjunction with NMFS on the Seascape effort, part of a partnership fulfillment. The Nearshore Monitoring Program is also partnered with various agencies. New intertidal monitoring sites have been established in the north on the Makah Reservation and in the south on the Quinault Reservation. There are also partnerships to

do invasive species monitoring, as well as collaboration with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to look at pathogen and contaminant studies on sea otters. Numerous surveys and studies planned for 2006 will be cancelled or curtailed because of budget cuts, as well as reduced time on the Tatoosh for hypoxia monitoring. Also staff training in GIS will be reduced, along with travel to several conferences.

Mary Sue Brancato, Resource Protection Specialist OCNMS, outlined the resource protection program and goals to protect the resources and quality of the sanctuary. Areas included in resource protection are monitoring the remediation/reburial of the PC-1 cables; issuing permits for prohibited activities within the sanctuary; oil spill and contingency planning; derelict gear removal; overflight compliance and monitoring as well as marine mammal strandings. Areas that will be affected in 2006 by budget cuts include reduced travel, reduced support for overflight outreach and marine mammal stranding support; reduction in support for fiber optic cable experts, and reduced support for Big Eddy Ecosystem Initiative.

Robert Steelquist, Education/Outreach Coordinator OCNMS, described the education, interpretation and outreach programs the sanctuary has been involved in in the past, including work with school teachers and students, state and national parks, Makah interpretation programs, and volunteer programs with Olympic Coast Discovery Center, COASST, and beach cleanup efforts. They help coordinate approximately 400 volunteers in annual beach cleanup, roughly 40 volunteers with the OCDC, and 150 with COASST bird mortality counts. As a result of budget cuts, they will not be able to complete some of the planned regional and national work with education conferences, and funding for seasonal interpreters with Olympic National Park will be reduced or eliminated as well as reductions in volunteer training.

There was discussion of information currently available on OCNMS website and suggestions of information to be included in the future.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Carol provided information about a proposed national marine sanctuary for all of the coastal waters in Oregon, as announced by the Governor of Oregon about a month ago. OCNMS will provide information to Oregon as requested.

The Washington State Ocean Policy Working Group has submitted an interim report to the Governor, and it appears there may be opportunities for collaboration with the state in several areas, including ship time. In 2006 the working group will be looking at a broader array of issues. Jennifer Hagen will continue to monitor the working group activities.

There have been productive meetings with the four coastal Tribes and the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission to create a policy council. Work has begun to draft a charter for the policy council.

### **Public Comment**

No comments offered.

**Meeting Comments/Future Agenda/Adjourn**

Terrie asked for the council's guidance on topics that will come up at the national chairs' meeting. In response to a question as to location of the March SAC meeting, Andy indicated possibly the Hoquiam/Aberdeen area.

March agenda topics:

Report by the working group established for comment on the NMSA Regulatory Process

Acoustics issues

Oil spill contingency rules

Education (Gene Woodwick)

Discussion of council operating procedures

Discuss endorsement of coastal cleanup

New members/election of officers/administer oath

Charter

Member report - Martha Hurd

Bob Morse thanked Carol and George for putting together the AOP presentation and suggested that it be an annual presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.